Introduction to Internet
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Basic Internet Vocabulary

**Browser:** A browser is a software program that allows you to view and navigate through Internet pages. Internet Explorer, Mozilla Firefox and Google Chrome are popular examples.

**Email:** Electronic mail.

**Internet Service Provider (ISP):** If you want to access the Internet from home you must have an ISP. An ISP is an Internet Service Provider, a company that you pay to provide you with a connection to the Internet. Nextech, AT&T and Cox are all examples of ISPs.

There are several ways to connect to the Internet. All require a modem:

- **DSL:** a Digital Service Loop connects your computer to the Internet via a faster method of dial up.

- **Cable:** cable companies often offer high-speed access along with cable TV. Cable Internet is a shared connection to the Internet with the rest of your neighborhood. The more people have Cable Internet, the more potential for slower access.

- **Wireless/Wi-Fi:** uses a receiver to connect your computer to the Internet without any wires. Among other places, libraries, some hotels and coffee shops offer wireless access to people who bring their laptops.

**Link:** Short for “hyperlink,” which is a reference or navigation element within a document or web page that leads you to another document (visualize links on a chain connecting each other).

**Search Engine:** A program that indexes millions of websites to help users find relevant information by searching with keywords and phrases. Popular search engines include Google, Ask, Yahoo, Bing and Dogpile.

**Web page:** A single document found within a website. Just like a book with pages, a website has web pages.

**Web addresses or URL (Uniform Resource Locator):** You may type in a web address to search the Internet. Like your home address, a web address is unique. For example, just as there is only one 1409 Williams Great Bend, KS 67530, there is only one www.google.com.
World Wide Web: A system of interlinked hypertext documents accessed via the Internet.

Navigating the Internet

Exercise I-Opening & Understanding the Browser

You start the browser (program for connecting to the Internet) by clicking or double-clicking an icon on the desktop or taskbar, or by opening the Start Menu and choosing Programs and then choosing Mozilla Firefox (or other browser).

The World Wide Web can be thought of as a form of publishing. Instead of publishing documents in a book, magazine, or newspaper, the web publishes documents on a computer screen.

Anatomy of a URL (web address)
Looking at the URL can give you many clues as to the type of website you might be visiting. For example, www.greatbendpl.info is a Web site for Great Bend Public Library.

- .com - a commercial website
- .net - a network website (can also be a commercial site)
- .gov - a government website
- .org - a non-profit organization website (usually)
- .mil - a military website
- .edu - an educational website from a school or university
- .info - informative Internet sources

The http:// part indicates that you are dealing with web pages instead of other Internet services (usually you don’t have to type it). Http stands for Hypertext Transfer Protocol. The www indicates World Wide Web. The greatbendpl is the organization operating the server (publishes the information), and the info indicates an informative source.

Each web document is known as a web page. Often you can’t see the whole page at one time on your screen. Scrolling lets you move up and down to see the rest of your page.

You can also get to another web page by clicking a link (pointer will become a hand or link will change color). For example, under Services, then click on Adults (notice it becomes a hand when it can be clicked). Now click on Computer Classes to see up-to-date information on classes offered.

The title bar appears at the top of the browser, displaying the name of the program and the name of the current web page.
Below the title bar, you will find the Menus. Each menu provides a list of commands to modify the browser’s operation.

Below the menu bar, you will find the address box. This is where URLs can be typed. Just left click once inside the long box and press backspace to delete the current address. When you see the flashing cursor you can type there (or you can just type over the current URL once it is highlighted). Once the address is entered, hit the enter key on the keyboard.

Tool buttons appear in various places. Some buttons are dim, indicating the buttons are not available because the conditions are not right for them to operate. On your screen it is possible that the Forward button is dim. If so, why do you think it’s not available for clicking? Sometimes you get as far aw you want by clicking links and want to return to where you started. Click the Back button as many times as it takes to get back to the Great Bend Public Library home page (you will notice that now your Forward button is no longer dim, but your Back button is).

To find out what a tool button does, you can place your mouse cursor (without clicking any buttons) and let it hover over a particular button. In a matter of seconds, a small text box will appear telling you the function of the button.

**Exercise II-Typing in a New URL**
You can visit a website by typing the address. For example, you can read many newspapers online. For example the Topeka Capital-Journal is available online. To view the paper, begin by clicking the address line near the top of the screen. The address turns dark to indicate it has been selected, once the current address is selected (or highlighted), you can type over it. Now, type www.cjonline.com and then press enter. If you don’t know an address, you can use a search engine like Google or Yahoo.

Click on the View menu. Slide the pointer down over the words Text Size. A blue bar leads to a submenu displaying a choice of text sizes. Think of the blue bar as a bridge. Slide your mouse along the blue bar to choose a new size. Be careful to keep your mouse steady on the blue bar. (You don’t want to fall off the bridge!) Adjust the size until you find the size most comfortable for you to read (this may not help for every website).
Once you have reached the Topeka Capital-Journal website, note the subjects near the top (e.g., News, Sports, Life, Opinion). Many newspapers have a similar setup. Find the Mars pages by clicking News.

**Exercise III-Performing a Search with Yahoo**
Search engines like Yahoo and Google can help you find websites when you don’t know the address. Click on the address box so that it is selected and type `www.yahoo.com` then press enter. In the search box, type Great Bend Kansas and press enter or click Search. The results in blue are links that you can click, but you may notice that the first of the results are “sponsor results.” Skip those and try to find the official website for Great Bend, KS.

**Using Google**
Google, much like Yahoo, is another search engine that is used as a tool for finding resources online. Google scans web pages to find instances of the keywords you have entered in the search box. It is also the most popular search engine and indexes the most web pages, which means you will get more results when you search.

**Exercise I-Searching for Newspapers**
Go to `www.google.com` and try to find other online newspapers (e.g. New York Times or Wall Street Journal). Once you have entered a keyword or words click enter. Google also offers the I’m Feeling Lucky option that automatically takes you to the website it thinks you want without returning a list of results.

**Exercise II-Maps**
There are many different map services available online, including MapQuest, Yahoo maps, and Google Maps. Click on the Maps links at the top and click Get Directions.

**TIP:** You can search for directions By Car, By Public Transit, By Walking or By Biking.

**Exercise III-Image Search**
Google can also be used to search for images. Click on the Images link at the top. In the search box, type “labradoodle” as a sample search and click enter.

To view the images in full size, click the thumbnail of the image.